



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Port Royal Man Arrested on Child Pornography Charges

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the arrest of John Joseph Charette, Sr. (DOB: 01/7/1947) of Port Royal, S.C. on three (3) counts involving the sexual exploitation of minors. The Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, made the arrest.

Investigators with the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office received a referral from the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office (also a member of the ICAC Task Force) that a file containing images of a child engaged in sexual activity had been disseminated from an account traced to Charette's residence. A search warrant was executed on December 2, 2014 by officers from the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office, and computer equipment was seized for examination.

Charette was arrested and charged with one (1) count of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, second degree (§16-15-405), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment, and two (2) counts of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor third degree (§16-15-410), a felony offense punishable by up to ten (10) years imprisonment on each count.

The case will be prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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